rehabilitative measures that need to be taken in connection with the atrocities on women. The Central Government has also initiated a number of schemes for the empowerment of women.

Inter-state council's views on article 356

860. SHRI ASHOK MITRA:
SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inter-State Council has communicated its views to Government on the advisability of eliminating, retaining or amending Article 356 of the Constitution;

(b) whether the Council has also finalised its views on the other recommnedations of the Sarkaria Commission; and

(c) whether Constitutional amendments are on the anvil to implement the Inter-State Council's recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) No, Sir. The matter relating to amendment of article 356 of the Constitution of India was considered by the Inter-State Council (ISC) in its meeting held on 17.7.1997 but there was no consensus on the issue.

(b) The Sarkaria Commission had made 247 recommendations. The ISC has finalised its views in respect of 56 recommendations. 54 of these recommendations have been accepted.

(c) The recommendations accepted by the ISC do not possible involve any constitutional amendment. These recommendations have been forwarded to various Ministries/Departments for implementation.

Crimes in Delhi

861. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:
SHRI IQBAL SINGH:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thefts, kidnapping, child rape, murder and burglaries have shown an upward trend in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the number of cases of theft and other crimes in Delhi are still unsolved; and

(d) the action being taken by Government to prevent such cases in Delhi to improve the law and order situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) The number of reported cases of theft, kidnapping, child rape, murder and burglaries during the first 10 months of 1997 compared to the corresponding period of 1996 is as follows:—

	1997 (upto 31.10.97)	1996 (upto 31.10.96)
Theft	18930	16756
Kidnapping	836	777
Child rape	194	172
Murder	473	448
Burglaries	2312	2014

Increase in crime can be attributed to a combination of factors which include heavy increase in urban population, socio-economic conditions, increased strains and stresses of modern living, frequent movement of people of unverified background into and out of Delhi, etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The steps taken by Delhi Police to prevent crime in Delhi include, inter alia, intensification of beat patrolling; emphasis on neighbourhood watch scheme and servant verification drive; posting of armed pickets at strategic points; strengthening of intelligence network; close watch on and frequent raids at the suspected hide-outs of criminals; increased surveillance on history sheeters.